



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEE'S SUMMIT MAN, WOMAN SENTENCED FOR METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lee's Summit, Mo., couple was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Wesley J. Durham, 23, and **Erica J. Duncan**, 23, both of Lee's Summit, Mo., were sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon. **Durham** was sentenced to 19 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Duncan** was sentenced to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On May 6, 2005, **Durham** and **Duncan** were convicted by a federal jury of charges contained in a June 30, 2004, federal indictment. **Durham** was found guilty of conspiracy to manufacture and distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine between Nov. 1 and Dec. 12, 2003. **Durham** and **Duncan** both were found guilty of attempting to manufacture between 20 and 35 grams of methamphetamine between Nov. 1 and Dec. 12, 2003, and possessing between 100 and 300 grams of pseudoephedrine with the intent to manufacture methamphetamine on Dec. 12, 2003.

According to Graves, law enforcement officers responded to a call regarding an infant that died upon arrival at the Lee's Summit Hospital on Dec. 12, 2003. While the cause of the infant's death was attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Graves explained, the investigation into the infant's death revealed that a methamphetamine laboratory was being operated in the residence of co-defendant **Bruce E. Williamson**, 45, of Lee's Summit, where **Duncan**, **Durham** and their child had been living. In searching the residence, law enforcement officials discovered numerous items related to the manufacture of methamphetamine, including plastic funnels, several thousand matchbooks, coffee filters, cold tablets, plastic bags, Aphedrid, Naphtha, antihistamine tablets, nasal decongestants, pseudoephedrine, Heet, Acetone, a hot plate, a digital scale, measuring cups, muriatic acid, red phosphorus and Red Devil Lye.

On July 26, 2005, **Williamson** was sentenced to six years in federal prison without parole. **Williamson** pleaded guilty on March 8, 2005, to conspiring to manufacture and distribute between 50 and 150 grams of methamphetamine between Nov. 1 and Dec. 12, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph M. Marquez and Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow